

Chairman Will Hurd
Opening Statement

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Subcommittee on Information Technology Hearing
“Game Changers: Artificial Intelligence Part II; AI and the Federal Government”

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Good afternoon and welcome to the Oversight and Government Reform hearing on Artificial Intelligence. This is the second hearing in a series of hearings on artificial intelligence. This series is an opportunity for the Subcommittee to take a deep dive into this issue. I have three main objectives when it comes to AI in government.

First, it should make every interaction an individual has with the federal government take less time, cost less money, and be more secure. I have wonderful caseworkers on staff who spend their time working to help constituents receive their veterans' benefits or to help with Social Security. They are speaking everyday with people who are frustrated with how long it takes to resolve problems in the federal government. I believe with the adoption of AI we can improve the response time and in some cases, prevent these problems in the first place.

Second, AI should produce efficiencies and cost savings that will help us do more for less money and help to provide better, more transparent citizen facing services. This should help to restore the bonds of trust between citizens and their government.

We have innovative companies, brilliant minds, hard-working people, and the rule of law. So we in the United States should lead on AI. And the federal government needs to be an active participant. Whether it is through basic and applied research and development that DARPA, NSF, and DHS are doing, or GSA's work on procurement, the AI within the government needs to benefit those whom the government serves.

I thank the witnesses for being here today, and I look forward to hearing and learning from all of you. I will be honest at the beginning of this endeavor I was prepared to see much use of AI throughout the federal government and I think our panelists here today are going to show how we are doing some very interesting things within the federal government. As always, it's an honor to explore these very important issues, in a bipartisan fashion, with my friend and Ranking Member, the one and only Robin Kelly from Illinois.